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**Introduced by Senator Huff**

June 30, 2016

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Senate Resolution No. 82—Relative to Latex Allergy Awareness Week.

1 WHEREAS, Latex allergy patients face a constant threat to their  
2 lives from exposure to rubber latex allergens; reactions can be  
3 elicited by touching a product containing natural rubber latex,  
4 breathing airborne latex proteins, or digesting food prepared using  
5 latex gloves; and

6 WHEREAS, The incidence of latex allergies has increased due  
7 to widespread exposure to products containing latex; and

8 WHEREAS, Up to 6 percent of people in the United States are  
9 estimated to have latex allergies, including up to 17 percent of  
10 health care and food service workers, 11 percent of elderly, and  
11 up to 68 percent of children with spina bifida; and

12 WHEREAS, Exposure to natural rubber latex results in up to  
13 10 deaths per year in the community of latex allergy patients and  
14 is the second most common cause of anaphylaxis in the operating  
15 room; and

16 WHEREAS, Some patients with a latex allergy may also  
17 experience allergic symptoms when eating certain fruits,  
18 vegetables, and nuts, including, among other things, banana,  
19 avocado, kiwi, tomato, carrot, and chestnut; and

20 WHEREAS, There is no cure for a latex allergy, and every  
21 exposure increases the sensitivity and severity of the patient's  
22 condition, with distress and rebound reactions for days after  
23 exposure; and

24 WHEREAS, Latex allergies can only be prevented by avoiding  
25 all latex-related products, which can be found at homes, child care

1 centers, stores, schools, workplaces, and health care environments,  
2 among other places; and

3 WHEREAS, Natural rubber is found in over 40,000 products,  
4 including, but not limited to, hair accessories, toys, balloons, school  
5 and office supplies, sports equipment, and medical devices,  
6 resulting in a daily struggle for latex allergy patients to balance  
7 life and work with staying safe and healthy; and

8 WHEREAS, Latex allergies result in a growing number of  
9 workers' compensation claims arising from workplace exposure  
10 to products containing natural rubber latex; and

11 WHEREAS, The American Latex Allergy Association creates  
12 awareness of latex allergies through education and provides support  
13 to individuals who have been diagnosed with a latex allergy; now,  
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the Senate  
16 hereby proclaims the week of October 2, 2016, through October  
17 8, 2016, as Latex Allergy Awareness Week in California; and be  
18 it further

19 *Resolved*, That the Senate encourages all Californians to be  
20 informed about the causes, symptoms, treatment, and prevention  
21 of latex allergies; and be it further

22 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of  
23 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.